Fort Thorn
August 12th 54

INTER-CORRESPONDENCE
HERBARIUM
COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY.

Professor

Your favor of June date is to hand and for it I beg leave to express myself much honored.
The present position from which I shall in no means expect an one for herborizing as Dr Webster. from the vicinity of wh all the plants forwarded have been procured. – Still I think of the very few yet observed here I have perhaps several species of interest. – The finest and perhaps rarest plants found about the Sierra del Cobre inflorescence in August – a few upon dry soil are to be procured principally in April and May. –
The August plants are mostly found in the Mountain Canons by the side of rills – and when in full flower are frequented by such immense numbers of the humming bird – (T. Anna) that their perpetual buzzing resembles the noise made by a swarm of bees – – These are the only localities where this tiny bird is to be found in this territory – But to Plants –
There is no plant in my collection of whose time of inflorescence Color of petals or sepals – and habitat – is not recognised by me at sight – for that reason I did not append those important particulars. I have passed somewhat of my time among the bears and foxes that every plant tho' unfamiliar by name is yet so by sight. I had expected to carry in my own plants – till Capt Pope applied to me –

My limited knowledge of Botany comprehends only the principal common plants of New York State - and the rarer plants I profess myself but little acquainted with scientifically. -
- Many of my specimens are poorly prepared - for the reason that in my long hunts I was not prepared always with a very extensive arrangement for preserving them properly. I used mostly a book - till I could transfer to sheets of newspaper. But among most of the quadruplicates you may be able to single out one or two good specimens.
- Where one attends to as many things as I have done - some will be executed unequally well with as others - between collecting and writing in regard to birds - fishes - and plants besides packing when collecting, a heavy rifle and convenience for preparing birds - plants would sometimes suffer - altho' I took pains to obtain everyone at all apparently unknown - I found that many common plants were to found here - such as the Hypericum Erecta, Potamogetons, varieties of Ribes - and Salix Mentha, Malvas &c but did not collect them - merely taking notes of their existence. I never saw the Datura Stramonium anywhere in Mexico but at Fort Webster - I believe it is rare here - The common sun flower springs spontaneously everywhere where the ground has been cultivated never I believe - unless - Land shells I never met with beyond the commonest of Helix -
- It will be a matter of the greatest pleasure to me to furnish you with notes for the specimens obtained - if I am so fortunate as to be in New York some time hence - Even if you only have these notes for your own private specimens they will be of use.
- Journals are so extremely unreliable that I hardly like to send you many plants in paper (and those I may send will

be within long envellopes - I send one or two upon this occasion which may or may not be new or rare. - You are probably aware that almost all my birds plants &c have to be collected as it were with finger on trigger - redskins being pretty as black berries - and rather uncivilly disposed to say the least. (But it would seem highly unnatural to me now to feel that I was out of the reach of Constant danger - when it has long been the case that a yard of red with a feather at one end at any moment might on the occasion of any little Saunter from garrison walls - noiselessly intrude upon the scene of one's operations - Strange how easily we become accustomed to anything under the Sun - But I was prepared for all this long ere I saw New Mexico by frequent excursions to Hamilton and Essex Counties after Moose and deer - But a truce to anything like egotism -

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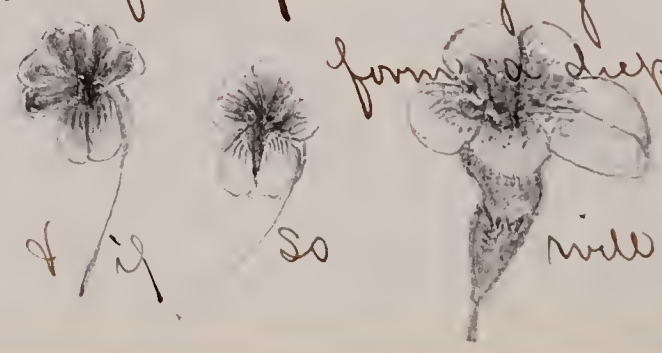
I wish I knew what plants here were most valuable I would paint specimens to forward - it models are often adopted to find the names of birds new to me. -

I shall have an opportunity of sending you a few plants - I think per Maj Richardson who will soon leave here - on leave - - They will be all from this vicinity only — and but few in number - Notes shall accompany them - if I send them -

I send you a plant which in the way of shape of Corolla bears a slight affinity to Sarracenia but grows in the sandiest kind of soil - flowers in July - Yellow. - The dessicated plant gives you a poor idea of the true shape of the flower which is like this. - two of the petals lying down over the main peduncle while the others form a deep cup -



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Before I send this I will see if I can find one more blossom & if so will paint it and forward.

The specimen here I send you is a very bad one - for I send my
constantly by mail. It is of a kind very difficult to press well
as you must sir be aware -
I have not been able to find the plant now in blossom -
- Having Dr Steck our Indian agent as a fellow hunter and
a very scientific and able Coadjutor - besides my special friend
I trust to be able to make some long excursions ere long.

I remain Sir
Very Respectly
Your obedt servant
Wharton Henry
Asst Surgn USA -

TORREY CORRESPONDENCE
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Prof John Torrey
New York